

Dear Sir or Madam:

I'm writing out of concern for the trend to concentrate broadcast media -- which use publicly owned airwaves -- in the hands of fewer and fewer corporate owners who may or may not have the public interest at heart.

I believe the FCC's first and foremost fiduciary duty is to the American public. The FCC is in a very real sense a guardian of democracy. As such, it has a duty to me and every other citizen to ensure that those who use public airwaves do so in a way that upholds the principles of democracy. Among these principles are that public facilities must not be used for partisan political purposes; that a diversity of opinion must be presented in a manner that is fair and complete; and that the public interest must take precedence over the private interests of media owners.

The decision by Sinclair Broadcasting to force its stations to air a clearly partisan program demonstrates the danger of media concentration. I also believe it violates current election law and perhaps communication law. Whether I am correct or not about the law, Sinclair is certainly operating without regard for the greater public interest.

I urge the FCC to take whatever action it can against Sinclair and others who would use a public resource to advance their private interest and thereby undermine democracy. At the very least, the FCC should make it harder, not easier, for broadcast and other media to control the delivery and content of programming to Americans. It also should establish a rigorous test of operation in the public interest as part of the license renewal process.

Thank you.